

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification

Please amend the specification as indicated hereafter. It is believed that the following amendments and additions add no new matter to the present application.

Please amend the paragraph labeled 0002 starting at line 25 on page 2 as follows:

Co-pending U.S. patent applications having serial number ~~[attorney docket no. 190250-4300]~~ 10/685,656, titled "Identifying Undesired Email Messages Having Attachments," filed on October 14, 2003; ~~[attorney docket no. 190250-1570]~~ 10/686,346, titled "Filtered Email Differentiation," filed on October 14, 2003; and ~~[attorney docket no. 190250-1610]~~ 10/685,558, titled "Phonetic Filtering of Undesired Email Messages," filed on October 14, 2003, are also incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

Please amend the paragraph labeled 0032 starting at line 1 on page 10 as follows:

Another distinction is that, unlike the '841 patent, various embodiments of the present disclosure integrate a filtering algorithm in conjunction with a rules-based approach. Thus, while the '841 patent operates in a closed set of predefined rules, some embodiments of the present disclosure supplement the set of rules with additional filtering processes, such as, for example, Bayesian filters. In this regard, a more powerful filtering engine is provided to the email user. Since additional filtering algorithms, such as Bayesian filters, are described in greater detail in 10/610,736, filed on June 30, 2003, ~~[attorney docket no. 190250-1300]~~ 10/685,656, titled "Identifying Undesired Email Messages Having Attachments," and ~~[attorney docket no. 190250-1610]~~ 10/685,558, titled "Phonetic Filtering of Undesired Email Messages,"

further discussion of additional filtering algorithms is omitted here. Example embodiments having combined rules and filtering algorithms are provided with reference to FIGS. 3 and 4.

Please amend the paragraph labeled 0074 starting at line 21 on page 21 as follows:

As shown in the embodiment of FIG. 4, the determining (320) step may begin by first determining (405) whether or not an email message has an empty subject line. If the email message has an empty subject line, then the process exits to FIG. 3, and a filtering algorithm is executed (330) on the email message. If, on the other hand, the subject line is not empty, then the process continues by next determining (410) whether or not the message body is empty. If the message body is empty, then the process exits to FIG. 3, and the filtering algorithm is executed (330) on the email message. Conversely, if the message body is not empty, then the process next determines (415) whether or not the size of the message is greater than a predefined size. In some embodiments, the threshold for email size may be two or three megabytes. It should, however, be appreciated that this threshold may be varied according to the various needs of the user. If the message size exceeds the predefined threshold, then the process exits to FIG. 3, and the filtering algorithm is executed (330) on the email message. If, however, the threshold message size is not exceeded, then the process continues by extracting (420) various features from the email message. The various features may include the Internet address of the sender, the Internet address of the recipient, Internet domain names, words in the subject line of the message, words in the body of the message, HTML or XML tags in the email message, IP addresses of intermediate Internet hops, or a variety of other features. Since these features are discussed in greater detail in 10/610,736, filed on June 30, 2003, ~~attorney docket no. 190250-1300~~ 10/685,656, titled "Identifying Undesired Email Messages Having Attachments," filed on October 14, 2003, and ~~attorney docket no. 190250-1610~~ 10/685,558, titled "Phonetic Filtering of Undesired Email Messages," filed on October 14, 2003, further

discussion of these features is omitted here. Upon extracting (420) the various features, the features are compared (425) with a predefined list of features, and the system determines (430) whether or not the extracted feature exists in the predefined list. If the feature does not exist in the predefined list, then the process exits to FIG. 3, and the filtering algorithm is executed (330) on the email message. Alternatively, if the extracted feature exists in the predefined list, then the process ends without additionally filtering the email message.